

spending this amount of foreign financial assistance for the welfare of poor tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (g). The information is being gathered and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

[English]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

3444. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Central Scheme for providing assistance to Voluntary Organisations engaged in serving persons with cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for manpower development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). A Plan scheme providing for grant-in-aid upto 100% to Non-Governmental Organisations for developing Organisations for developing organisational and infrastructural facilities for manpower training and provision of hostel facilities and other assistance required for imparting training to various categories of workers/trainers in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation has been launched in the 8th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores. A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been kept under this scheme during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Diamond Mines

3445. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamond mines have been found at Devbhog in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to suitably improve the management of the said diamond mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available there are no Diamond mines in Devbhog area of Raipur.

(b) Does not arise.

Finance Corporation for Development of Maithilis

3446. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Corporation has been set up for the development of Maithilis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the above Corporation likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Revision of Rates

3447. SHRI RAMSAGAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether undue long time is taken to give approval to revision of rates and approval of suppliers in the Super Bazar as a result of which the supplies to the consumers are affected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to cut down the delay and to bring efficiency in the working of the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, no undue long time is taken to give approval to the revision in rates and approval of suppliers. It is usually done immediately for fast moving items and within a week or two for slow moving goods. This does not effect supplies to the consumers.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Licensed Agents for Selling Postal Stationery

3448. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed agents authorised to sell postal stamps and stationery and book registered articles in the country;

(b) whether any opposition has been registered against the scheme of appointment of such agents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 144 Licenced Postal Agents are operating the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Staff Unions had opposed the scheme.

(d) The scheme has been kept in abeyance since 1987 for granting further licences.

Censorship on Press

3449. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Censorship on the Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into abuse of freedom of press in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facility in Patna

3450. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile telephone facility in various cities and particularly in Patna, the capital of Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Government has licensed M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephones service in Bihar. A letter of intent has also been issued to M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. for this service in Bihar. As per the license agreement, the companies are required to provide the service in atleast 10% of the district headquarters in the first year.

(b) As per the Licence Agreement, the company should start the service in Bihar including Patna by the end of December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

[English]

Indian Bureau of Mines

3451. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the regional offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines State-wise, location wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up such more Regional Offices in various States particularly in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The regional offices of Indian Bureau of Mines are as follows:—

State	Location
Rajasthan	Ajmer and Udaipur
Karnataka	Bangalore
West Bengal	Calcutta
Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Tamil Nadu	Madras
Goa	Margao
Maharashtra	Nagpur
Bihar	Ranchi
Sub-Regional Office:	
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore